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North Korea's Long-term Re-education through Labor Camp (*Kyo-hwa-so*) at Pokchŏng-ni

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THE COMMITTEE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA
북한인권위원회

HRNK wishes to thank **Bobby Holt** for his peer review of this report and comments, and **Allen Anderson** for his gracious support of HRNK's efforts to document North Korea's vast system of unlawful imprisonment.

NORTH KOREA'S LONG-TERM RE-EDUCATION THROUGH LABOR CAMP (KYO-HWA-SO) AT POKCHŎNG-NI



Location:

Pokchŏng-ni, Kangdong-gun, P'yŏngyang-si

Coordinates:

39.001769° N, 126.057921° E

Date of Report:

May 29, 2019

Date of Imagery:

DigitalGlobe:

Orbital Imaging Corporation: September 14, 2004

Size of Facility:

43,848 square meters (52,440 square yards)

220 meters by 260 meters (240 yards by 284 yards)

Background

In February 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea (UN COI) found the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK's or North Korea's) political prison camps to be places where the most egregious crimes against humanity are being committed, including extermination; murder; enslavement; torture; imprisonment; rape and other grave sexual violence; and persecution on political, religious, and gender grounds.¹ Such crimes were "found by the UN COI to rise to the level of *crimes against humanity* in both the *kwan-li-so* and *kyo-hwa-so* [labor re-education] prisons," and "lead to the death of prisoners in many cases."² The UN COI called on the DPRK to acknowledge the existence of the political prison camps and uphold the human rights of its citizens.

The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) satellite imagery analysis and former prisoner testimony on the

situation inside political prisons (*kwan-li-so*) and re-education through labor camps (*kyo-hwa-so*) continue to yield new information on the DPRK practice of imprisoning people it deems anti-state, anti-nation, or anti-regime.³ HRNK found over twenty potential re-education through labor camps (*kyo-hwa-so*) inside the DPRK, recently documented in our October 2017 report *The Parallel Gulag*.⁴ These camps exist and function in addition to six operational political prison camps (*kwan-li-so*)—Nos. 14, 15, 16, 18, 25, and Choma-bong Restricted Area.⁵

Since the 2014 UN COI report, there have been continued reports of ill treatment and torture of prisoners, including women who have attempted to flee the country, and prisoner disappearances. Satellite imagery has shown the expansion of DPRK detention facilities in some cases as well as increased security measures inside these facilities.

Executive Summary

This report is part of a comprehensive long-term project undertaken by HRNK to use satellite imagery to shed light on human suffering in North Korea by monitoring activity at political prison facilities throughout the nation.⁶ This study details activity observed during the past 14 years at a prison facility that is provisionally being identified as the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* (39.001730 126.055616) and endeavors to establish a preliminary baseline report of the facility.⁷

It is important to note that escapee testimonies, open source reports, and media sources describe two *kyo-hwa-so* in the same general area as the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so*. The first and most often cited is in the Sŭngho-ri area, seven kilometers to the west, and the second in the Hwach'ŏn-ni area, three kilometers northeast. The closeness

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of these two reported locations to the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* suggests that they both may, in fact, be referring to the same camp during different periods of its development. For example:

The Database for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB) lists a Sŭngho-ri *Kyo-hwa-so*, which it identifies as “*Kyo-hwa-so* No. 8,” where approximately 2,000 prisoners mine coal on the border of Hwanghae-bukto.⁸

In another report NKDB identified a No. 26 political prison as being closed during January 1991 in Hwach’ŏn-ni - Sŭngho-ri area of P’yŏngyang-si. It reportedly held a “small scale” number of prisoners.⁹

A later NKDB report stated that *Kyo-hwa-so* No. 8, located in the Sŭngho-ri area, held over 2,000 prisoners who worked in a nearby coal mine.¹⁰

The Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU) locates “*Kyo-hwa-so* No. 8, Sŭngho-ri” within Hwanghae-bukto on the border of P’yŏngyang-si.¹¹

Chris Springer in his 2003 book, *Pyongyang: The Hidden History of the North Korean Capital*, reports that in 1994, the South Korean government stated that some of its citizens had been kidnapped by North Korea and were being held at a political prison facility in the Sŭngho-ri area.¹²

These reports were supported by an Amnesty International report.¹³

These reports, however, could have benefitted from specific location information. Their significance can be further assessed once additional information emerges.

For this report HRNK analyzed 20 high-resolution pan-sharpened multispectral and pan-chromatic satellite images of

Kyo-hwa-so Pokchŏng-ni and its immediate environs focusing upon examination of the following physical features:¹⁴

- » Checkpoints/entrance, guard positions, and security perimeters (internal and external)
- » Internal arrangements
- » Housing and agricultural support facilities and activity
- » Miscellaneous activity

Based upon analysis of these features, the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is a small operational prison camp that is well maintained by North Korean standards as is indicated by the general activity and maintenance in and immediately surrounding the camp. Despite extensive satellite imagery coverage of the facility, HRNK is presently unable to determine what specific type of economic activity the facility is focused on

or provide an estimate as to the number of prisoners detained within the facility.

As with the analytical caution presented in previous HRNK reports, such as [North Korea: Imagery Analysis of Camp 16](#) and [North Korea: Imagery Analysis of Camp 14](#), it is important to reiterate that North Korean officials, especially those within the Korean People’s Army and the internal security organizations, clearly understand the importance of implementing camouflage, concealment, and deception (CCD) procedures to mask their operations and intentions.¹⁵ It would be reasonable to assume that they have done so here.

Location and Subordination

The Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is in Kangdong-gun, P’yŏngyang-si, approximately three kilometers southeast of Hwach’ŏn-ni, seven kilometers east of Sŭngho-ri

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(Sŭnghori-yŏk), and immediately adjacent to the village of Pokchŏng-ni along the Nam-gang (Nam River). Precise subordination is presently unknown; however, it would appear to be under the control of the Prisons Bureau of the Ministry of People's Security, which is directly under the State Affairs Commission.¹⁶ Specifically, it would be under the control of the ministry's Kangdong-gun Provincial Bureau.

Development and Organization

The date of establishment of the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is unknown. Satellite imagery does, however, indicate that the camp was established prior to September 14, 2004.¹⁷ At that time, it occupied an irregular-shaped area that measured approximately 220 meters by 227 meters (240 yards by 248 yards), encompassed approximately 32,500 square meters (38,870 square yards),

and contained approximately 30 structures of all sizes from large administration, barracks and prisoner housing buildings to small sheds. The headquarters, administration, and barracks area was located inside the prison walls on the north side. Support and service areas were located to the south and east. Prisoner housing was located within an internal rectangular walled area with four guard positions located on the wall.

At that time there were a total of two interior and four exterior entrances to the camp. One interior entrance separated the prisoner housing area from the rest of the camp, while the second interior entrance separated the main camp from the support area to the east. The primary facility entrance was located on the southwest corner where the main road entered the camp. A secondary entrance, leading from the housing

area, was located on the western perimeter. The remaining two exterior entrances were located on the west side of the prison—both were small and appeared to be used primarily for foot traffic. Immediately outside of the prison walls, on the east side, were approximately five small buildings of unknown function that, judging from location and foot traffic, were likely associated with the prison.

The village of Pokchŏng-ni, located immediately outside the south and west walls of the prison, was apparently established at the same time as the prison, likely as a housing area for senior administration, government, and guard personnel. The September 2004 images show the village encompassing approximately 73,300 square meters (87,690 square yards) and containing approximately 57 structures.

Beginning in 2010, a three-year-long construction project designed to expand the prison was initiated and would result in the facility's present configuration. Satellite imagery indicates that this construction project was intended to expand prisoner capacity and add a separate new prisoner compound—likely for high-value prisoners. The initial stage of the project consisted of expanding the eastern wall to encompass the small number of buildings already present and the construction of a large building for prisoner housing. Accompanying this, the headquarters and administration area was expanded with the construction of two new buildings, and a new building was erected adjacent to the main entrance. A small building, probably agricultural related, was also built outside the prison wall on the southeast corner. The second phase of the construction

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project began in late 2011, around the time Kim Jong-un assumed power. The new prisoner housing building was expanded with the small addition turning it into a U-shaped structure. The original prisoner housing area was razed, and the prisoners moved into the newly expanded, walled eastern section of the camp. A new wall was built on the south side of the facility. This wall, rather than connecting with the new prisoner housing compound, left what

appears to be a ten-meter-wide opening on its east side. In the former prisoner housing area, a new, smaller internal prisoner housing compound was constructed between January and October 2013. This compound has walls separating it from the main camp and other prisoner housing. By late 2013, construction work at the camp was completed.

Because of this multi-year construction project, there were now

a total of two interior and four exterior entrances/checkpoints for the camp. The primary and secondary facility entrances/checkpoints remained unchanged but an opening in the security perimeter was created on the north side of the camp adjacent to the administration and headquarters area. This entrance leads to a small building and a hillside orchard. A second opening is present in the southern wall on the east side of the support area.

While there have been minor changes to the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* during the five years since the construction project was finished, satellite imagery from December 2017 (the date of the latest available imagery) indicates that these changes were minor in nature and what would typically be expected at other small *kyo-hwa-so*.

Figure 1



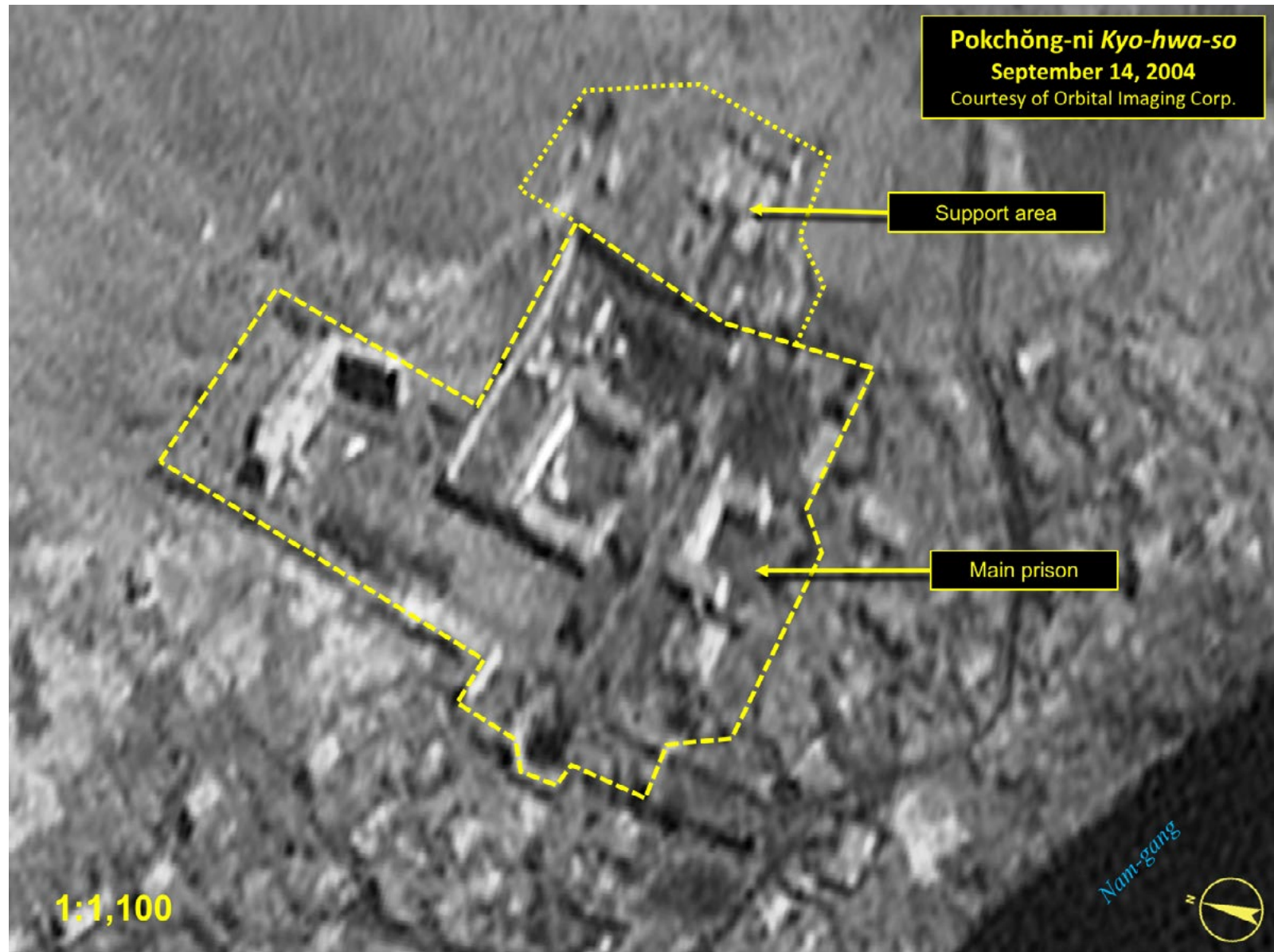
Overview of the Pokchŏng-ni Kyo-hwa-so and surrounding area, December 19, 2017.

Figure 2



Close-up view of the Pokchŏng-ni Kyo-hwa-so, December 19, 2017.

Figure 3



Although of only one-meter resolution, this September 14, 2004 satellite image is one of the earliest to show the Pokchŏng-ni Kyo-hwa-so.

Figure 4



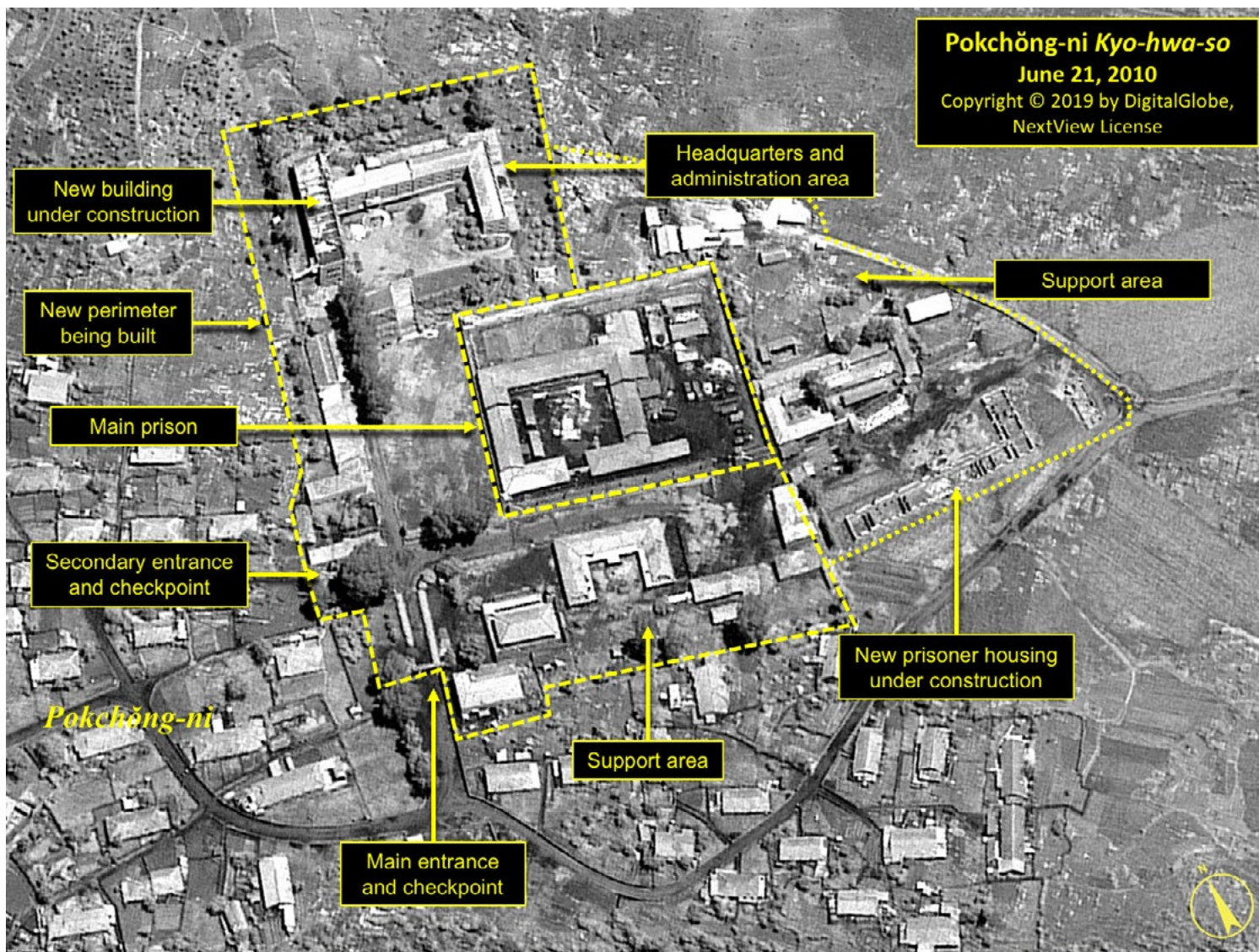
A view of the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* on August 19, 2006, showing the general arrangement of the facility before it underwent an expansion during the mid-2000s.

Figure 5



Aside from a new support building no significant changes are noted during the past two years in this May 16, 2008 image.

Figure 6



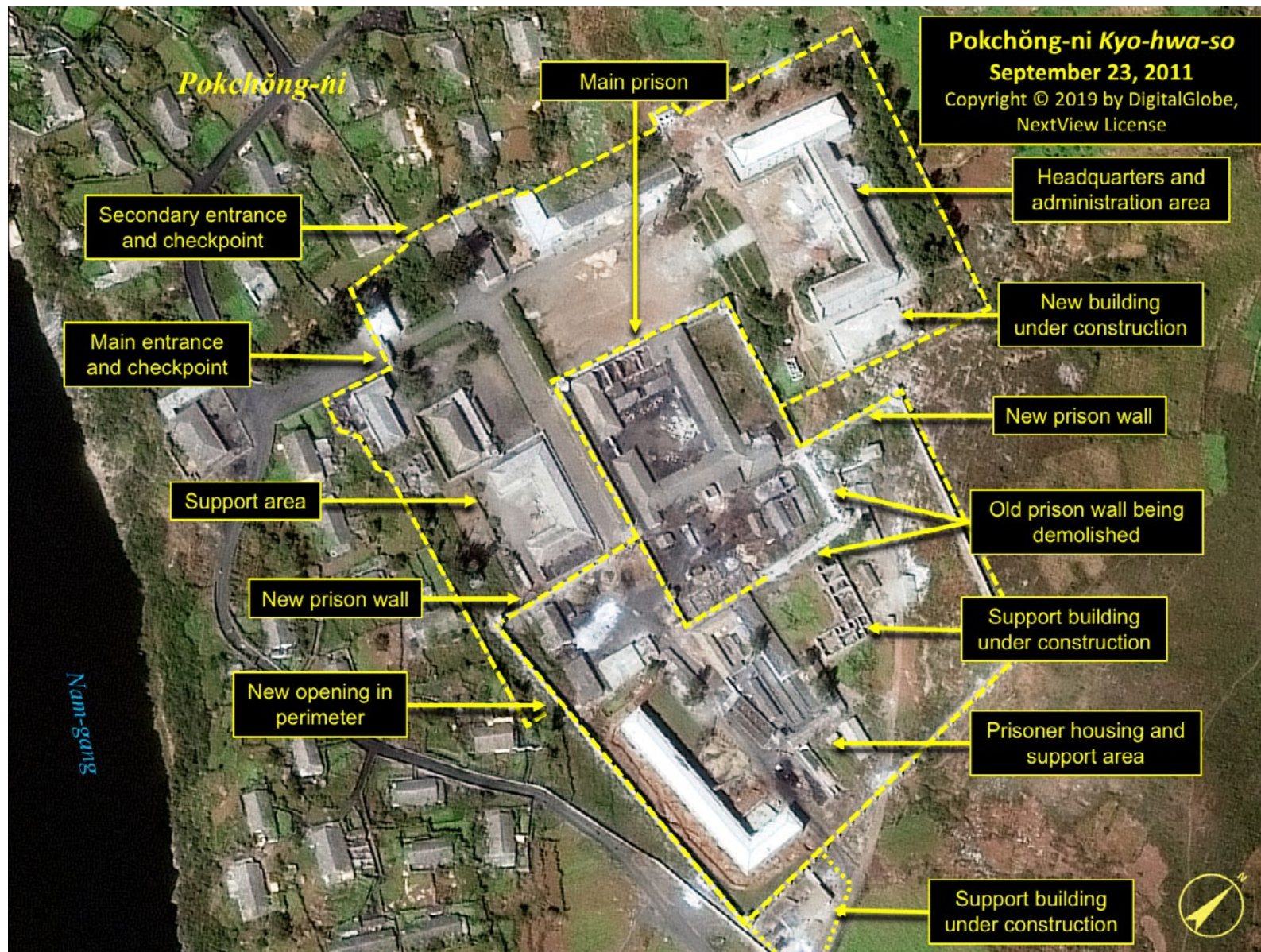
Beginning during 2010, a three-year-long construction project began to expand the prison. In this June 21, 2010 image, a new building is being constructed in the headquarters and administration area, the northwestern perimeter is being expanded, and a new prisoner housing building is under construction on the east side of the facility.

Figure 7



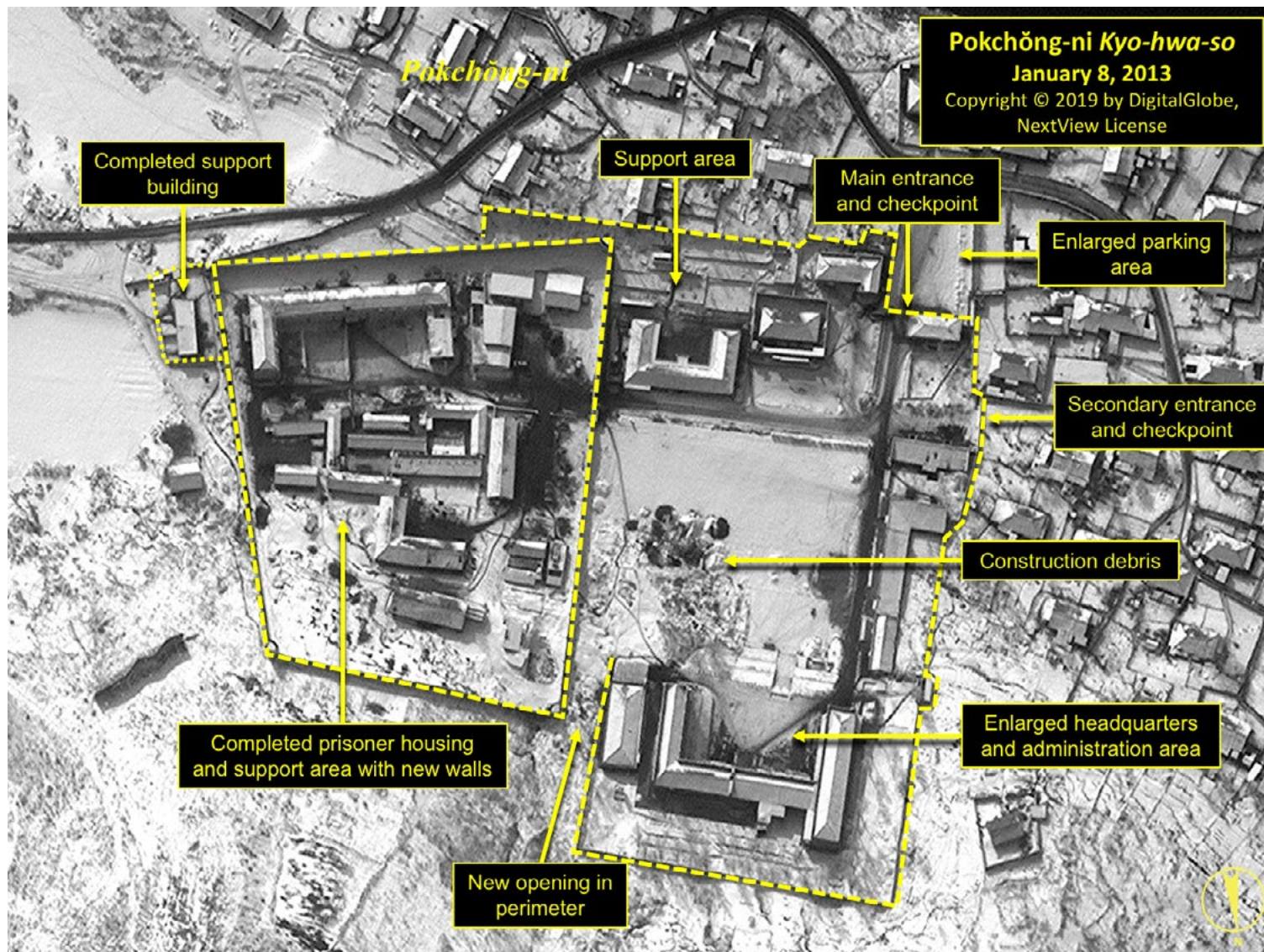
By January 16, 2011, the headquarters, northwest perimeter, and new prisoner housing construction were completed, a new wall on the south side of the facility was erected, and a perimeter wall was extended around the east side of the facility to include the new prisoner housing. A new support building is also under construction outside the southeast corner of the prison wall.

Figure 8



Eight months later, on September 23, 2011, the new perimeter wall was extended into the facility and a new building was under construction in the headquarters area.

Figure 9



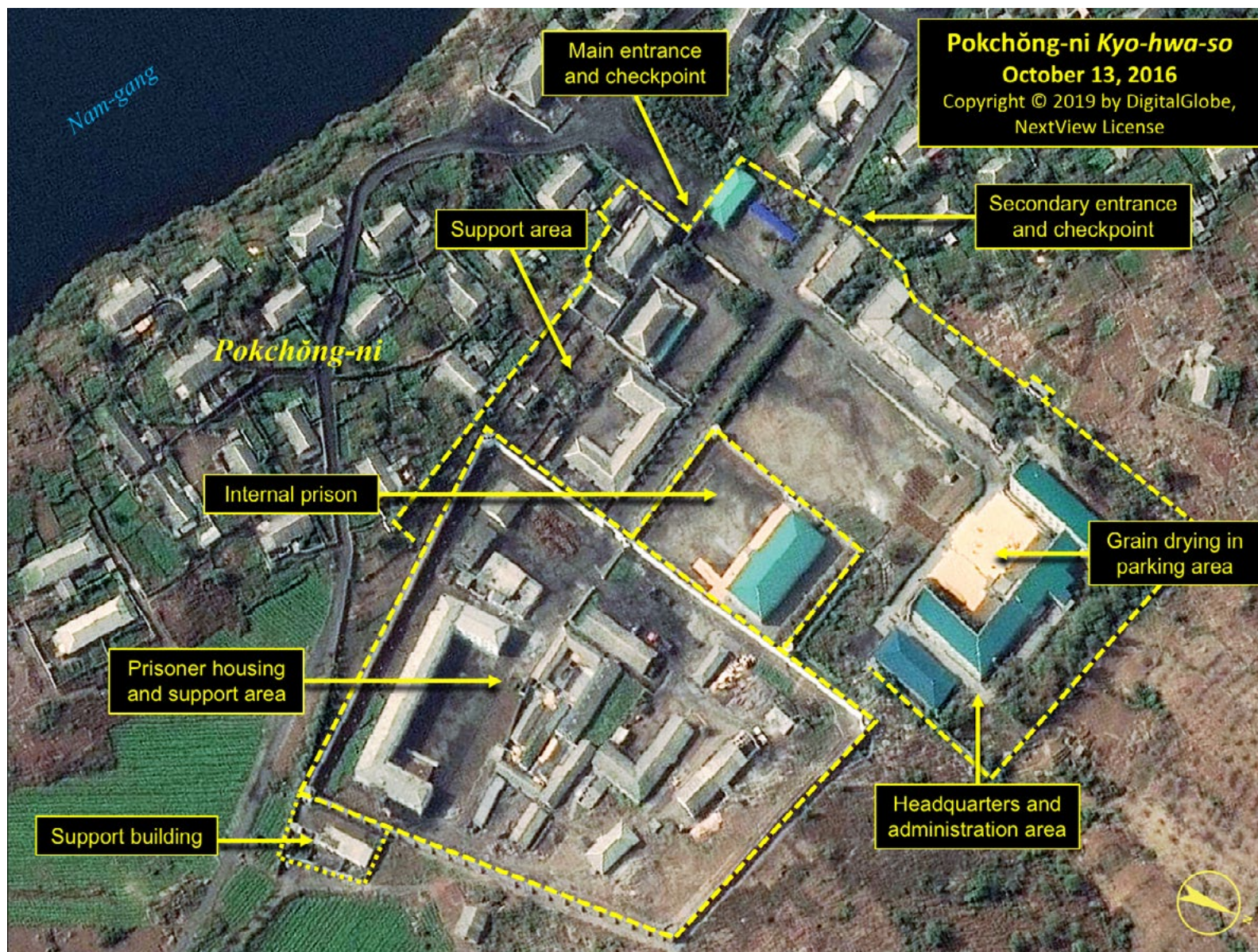
By January 8, 2013, construction of the new prisoner housing and support area was completed and the old prison was razed—construction debris is present at the former site. The headquarters construction was complete as was the new support building in the southeast corner of the facility. Accompanying these changes, the parking area in front of the main gate was expanded.

Figure 10



Imagery from April 15, 2015 shows a dramatic change with the construction of a new internal prison that is separated by walls and a gate from the rest of the camp.

Figure 11



By October 13, 2016, satellite imagery shows that construction has been completed and as of December 19, 2017, retains the same general layout.

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Imagery Analysis¹⁸

Based on the limited publicly available information and high-resolution satellite imagery, Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* and its immediate surroundings can be separated into four broad areas:

- » Security Perimeter and Guard Positions
- » Prison (headquarters, administration, prisoner housing, and support)
- » Support
- » Additional Activities

Security Perimeter and Guard Positions

A security perimeter consisting of a combination of walls, checkpoints/entrances, and guard positions not only separates the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* from

the surrounding countryside, but also segments it internally. Neither the external perimeter of the camp nor the interior infrastructure has changed significantly since 2013.

The external perimeter is approximately 955-meters-long (1,044-yards-long) and encompasses approximately 43,848 square meters (52,440 square yards). As of the 2010–2013 expansion project, this perimeter is no longer continuous due to a 14-meter-wide opening that was created on the north side of the camp adjacent to the administration and headquarters area, and a second ten-meter-wide opening is present on the east side of the southern support area wall. The opening on the north side leads to a small building and an orchard

planted on the hillside above the prison. In addition to this opening, the prison has two interior entrances and two exterior guard entrances/checkpoints. One interior checkpoint/entrance separates the main prisoner housing and work area from the rest of the camp, while the second separates the main camp from the new and smaller internal prisoner housing compound. The primary facility entrance/checkpoint sits astride the main road leading into the camp from the south, while the secondary entrance on the west side sits astride the road leading from the housing area.

A total of six guard positions are distributed atop the prison's walls—four on the corners of the main prisoner housing area and two on opposite corners of the

smaller prisoner housing compound (one of these is shared with the main prisoner housing area).

All walls and checkpoints/entrances appear to be well maintained and in good repair. The guard positions are well placed to provide overlapping fields-of-view of the camp and appear to be well maintained and in good repair.

Prison Area

The prison area of the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* can be broken down into four general areas: 1) headquarters and administration; 2) support; 3) main prisoner housing and work area; and 4) internal prisoner housing compound.

The headquarters and administrative area is located on the north side of the prison and consists

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of a large U-shaped two- or three-story building and an adjacent single-story building. In front of the main building is a parking area and an open field—sometimes observed being used by guards and staff as a soccer field.

Immediately south of the headquarters and administrative area is the internal prisoner housing compound. This compound was built between January 8 and October 1, 2013, and measures 65 meters by 45 meters. It has a single entrance and is surrounded by a high concrete wall with two guard positions atop of it (one guard position is shared with the main prisoner housing and work area). Inside the compound is a single 33 meter by 15 meter two- or three-story building. The layout and position of this compound

suggests that it is for a separate class of prisoners, possibly high-value detainees.

Occupying the east side of the prison is the main prisoner housing and work area. This enclosed area has a single checkpoint/entrance and is surrounded by a high concrete wall with five guard positions atop of it (one of which is shared with the internal prisoner housing compound). This area itself may be divided into two smaller components—prisoner housing and light industry/support. Located on the southeast side of this area is a U-shaped 25 meter by 70 meter two-story building that is used to house prisoners.¹⁹ What appears to be a partially completed wall on the east and southeast sides of this building was observed in the De-

cember 19, 2017 image. This and other low walls and fences appear to separate the prisoner housing building from the rest of the area. Scattered throughout the remainder of this area are approximately 15 small buildings that appear to be involved in some type of light-industry work, including one that appears to be for shipping and receiving. The exact nature of the light industry is unknown. There are numerous coal mines and quarries of various categories in this section of Kangdong-gun and it is possible that prisoners from the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* may be engaged in forced labor in these industrial operations.

The entire prison area appears to be well maintained by North Korean standards.

Support Area

Located south of the headquarters and administration area, and along the western and southern walls, are approximately eleven support buildings, including the main entrance/checkpoint office. All these structures are typical based on similar structures found at *kyo-hwa-so* around North Korea. One, however, is worth noting. It is a small rectangular building surrounded by a high wall measuring 25 meters by 19 meters that has an elevated structure, which could potentially be a guard tower or chimney, on the northeast corner of the wall. It is unclear what the purpose of this building is.

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Additional Activities

With the 2010–2013 expansion of the prison, the village of Pokchŏng-ni itself experienced a slight increase in size to approximately 95,541 square meters (114,266 square yards) and now consists of approximately 61 structures.

There are two very small cemeteries located on hillsides 250 meters and 650 meters northwest of the Pokchŏng-ni Kyo-hwa-so. These, however, are likely related to the small agricultural hamlets in the area rather than the prison because they are organized and constructed in typical burial grounds seen throughout North

Korea. As far as we know, the bodies of dead prisoners are: released to family, cremated, or buried in mass graves..

Located 700 meters east of the camp is a Korean People's Army (KPA) ground forces base and storage facility. Occupying the area between the prison and the base is a training area for the troops. This includes periodic firing ranges, mock-ups, a training tower, obstacles, etc. Judging from these characteristics and the size of the facility, it is likely that the unit based here is a light infantry regiment or brigade. No currently available information or satellite imagery suggests any connection

between the KPA barracks and the prison.²⁰

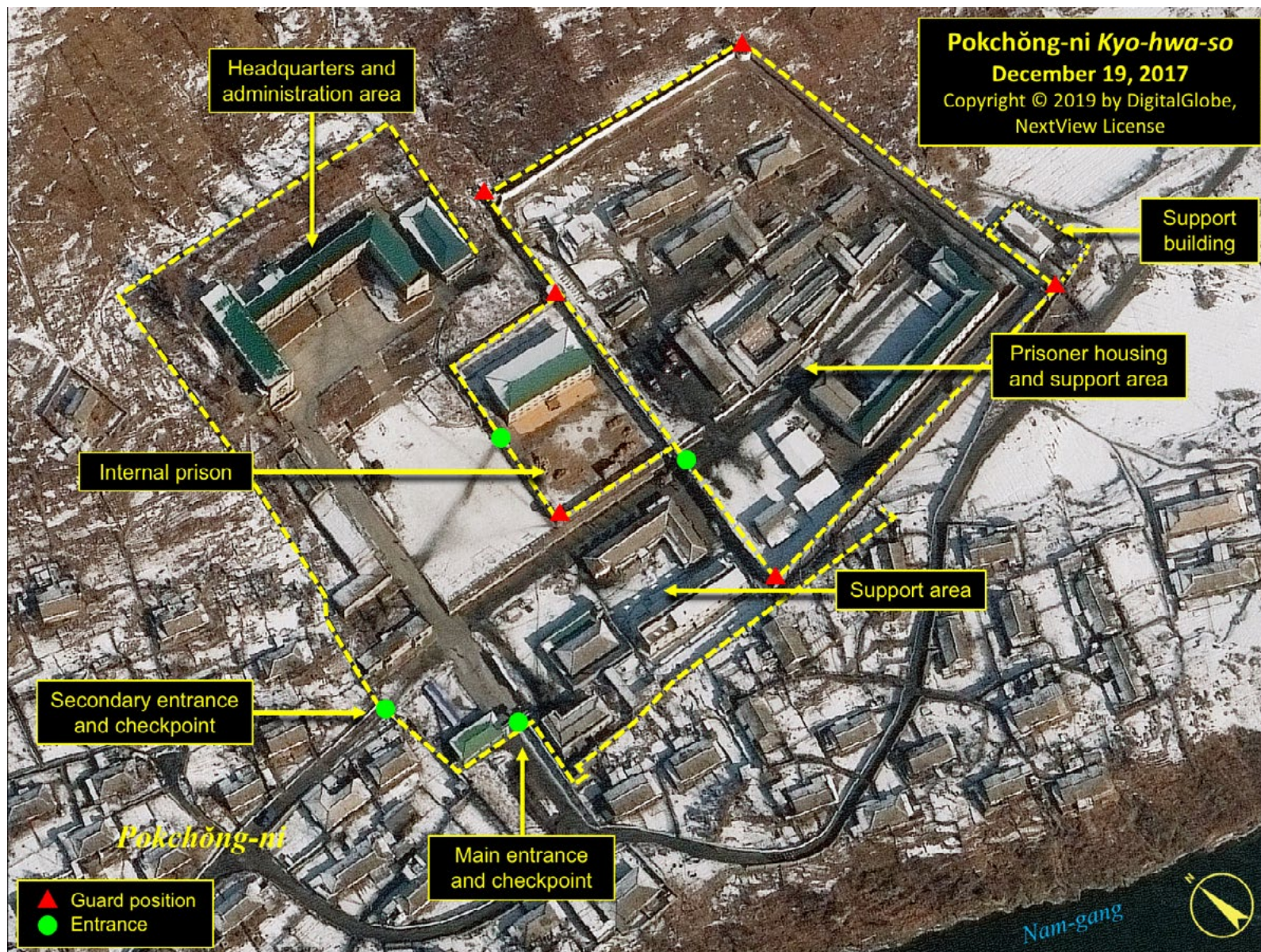
Five air defense artillery sites are observed within five kilometers of the prison. These are associated with the multiple and overlapping rings of the air defense network guarding the capital of P'yŏng-yang to the west.

While the prison is likely connected to the regional telephone network and electric power grid, it is likely via buried lines as no evidence of poles or cables was identified in satellite imagery. The prison is connected to the national rail network via the station at Sŭngho-ri (Sŭnghori-yŏk),

seven kilometers to the west of the facility. The closest air facility to the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is the Korean People's Air Force's Kangdong Airbase located 17 kilometers north-northwest. This is an operational training base. Due to its organization and location, this base almost certainly provides no support to the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so*.

Finally, attached to, and outside the prison wall, is a small walled compound with a single structure of unknown function.

Figure 12



An overview of the Pokchŏng-ni Kyo-hwa-so on December 19, 2017 (the last date for which there is available imagery) with the main prisoner housing and support area, internal prison, four entrances, and six guard towers.

Figure 13



A close-up view of the headquarters area and the internal prison on December 19, 2017.

Figure 14



A close-up view of the main prisoner housing and support area on December 19, 2017. Approximately 15 people can be seen on the west end of the prisoner housing building.

Figure 15



A close-up view of the support area on the south side of the facility on December 19, 2017. Of note is a small building surrounded by a high wall and a small elevated structure (potentially a guard tower or chimney) attached to it.

Assessment

Analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery of Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* collected between September 2004 and December 2017 and its environs indicates that:

The Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is an operational prison facility that was significantly expanded between 2010 and 2013.

It is, by North Korean standards, a mature and well-maintained prison facility.

There have been no significant changes to the physical size of the facility, including prisoner housing structures, since the end of 2013.

Perimeter walls and gates are well maintained and in good repair.

Guard positions are well positioned to provide overlapping fields-of-view of the prison and are well maintained and in good repair.

Administrative offices, barracks, housing, support buildings, and grounds are generally well maintained and in good repair.

The grounds and buildings of the prisoner housing and work areas appear to be moderately well maintained and in a moderate state of repair.

The prisoner population likely expanded following the 2010–2013 expansion project.

It is difficult to determine the type of forced labor performed by the prison population from satellite imagery only. Some of the prisoners are likely tasked with maintaining the adjacent agricultural fields and orchards.

Despite extensive satellite imagery coverage of the area, it is presently not possible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the prisoner population at the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so*.

Recommendations

Continued background investigation and ongoing monitoring of the Pokchŏng-ni *Kyo-hwa-so* is recommended to provide a more detailed accounting of its previous operations and develop an objective baseline understanding of its continuing activities, maintain an evidentiary catalog of physical changes at the facility, update its status, develop evidence of prisoner population size, and assist with the identification of human rights abuses.

Gazetteer

Location	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
Chigyŏng	39.003261°	126.061488°
Hwach'ŏn-ni (Hwach'ŏl-li)	39.016944°	126.044167°
Pokchŏng-ni	39.001730°	126.055616°
Pokchŏng-ni <i>Kyo-hwa-so</i>	39.001732°	126.057974°
Sŭngho-ri (Sŭnghori-yŏk)	38.994444°	125.976389°

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Endnotes

1. UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the detailed findings of the commission of inquiry*, para. 1033.
2. Robert Collins and Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents*, (Washington, DC: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2017), https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Collins_Cradle_to_Grave_WEB_FINALFINAL.pdf.
3. HRNK has published fifteen prison camp reports over the last five years as part of an ongoing effort to monitor the prison camps. These reports are available at <https://www.hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php?page=3>.
4. David Hawk with Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's 'An-jeon-bu' Prison Camps*, (Washington, DC: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2017), https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Hawk_The_Parallel_Gulag_Web.pdf.
5. This information comes from open source documents and commercial satellite imagery.
6. Previous reports in the project can be found at, <https://www.hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php>.
7. The official name of this facility is unknown so provisional name of Pokchŏng-ni was selected because the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency identifies Pokchŏng-ni as the village immediately adjacent to the *kyo-hwa-so*, and it clearly serves at the housing area for senior administration, government and guard personnel employed at the prison.
8. NKDB, *Current Situation of Detention Facilities in North Korea Focused on Kyo-hwa-so*, [in Korean] (Seoul: The Database for North Korean Human Rights, 2016), 40-41.
9. NKDB, *Political Prison Camps in North Korea Today*, (Seoul: The Database for North Korean Human Rights, 2011), 63-64.
10. NKDB, *Current Situation of Detention Facilities in North Korea Focused on Kyo-hwa-so*, [in Korean] (Seoul: The Database for North Korean Human Rights, 2016), 40-41.
11. Han Dong-ho, Do Kyoung-ok, Lee Wootai and Rim Je Joon, *Prison Camps in North Korea*, (Seoul: KINU, 2016), 16-17.
12. Chris Springer, *Pyongyang: The Hidden History of the North Korean Capital*, (Saranda Books: 2003)
13. Amnesty International. "North Korea: New information about political prisoners." 4-8.
14. The term "high resolution" in this report refers to satellite images with a ground sample distance (GSD) of less than 1.2 meters. The GSD is the distance between pixel centers when measured on the ground.
15. Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley, *Imagery Analysis of Camp 16*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2015) available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/ASA_HRNK_Camp16_v8_fullres_FINAL_12_15_15.pdf and Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *Imagery Analysis: North Korea's Camp No. 15, Update*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2014) available at <http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Camp%2025%20Update%20Good.pdf>.

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16. Robert Collins, *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents*, (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2017), 42, available at https://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Collins_Cradle_to_Grave_WEB_FINALFINAL.pdf.

17. HRNK anticipates that we will be able to further refine the date of the Chigyŏng *Kyo-hwa-so*'s establishment in future updates when now-classified satellite imagery from the 1980s and 1990s is released.

18. The following sources were used throughout this section: Database Center for North Korean Human Rights, "Political Prison Camps in North Korea Today," <http://nkdb.org/2012/main.php>; David Hawk, *The Hidden Gulag: Second*

Edition (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2012), 3, 63, 79, 223, available at http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_HiddenGulag2_Web_5-18.pdf; David Hawk, *The Hidden Gulag: Third Edition* (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2013), 22, 25, available at [http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk\(2\).pdf](http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/NKHiddenGulag_DavidHawk(2).pdf); David Hawk, *The Hidden Gulag: Fourth Edition* (Washington, D.C.: Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2015), 8, available at http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/Hawk_HiddenGulag4_FINAL.pdf; Kim, Soo-am, Kook-shin Kim, Soon-hee Lim, Hyun-joon Chon, Kyu-chang Lee, and Jung-hyun Cho, *KINU White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea, 2003-2013* (Seoul: Korea Institute for National

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19. Technically, the structure is made up of two buildings that are joined together.

20. While no connection between the KPA base and the prison is apparent, troops from the base could be used to suppress any disturbances at the prison that guards were unable to handle.



THE COMMITTEE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA
북한인권위원회

HRNK is the leading U.S.-based bipartisan, non-governmental organization in the field of North Korean human rights research and advocacy, tasked to focus international attention on human rights abuses in that country. It is HRNK's mission to persistently remind policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public in the free world and beyond that more than 20 million North Koreans need our attention.

Since its establishment in 2001, HRNK has played an important intellectual leadership role on North Korean human rights issues by publishing more than 30 major reports (available at <http://hrnk.org/publications/hrnk-publications.php>). HRNK became the first organization to propose that the human rights situation in North Korea be addressed by the UN Security Council. HRNK was directly, actively, and effectively involved in all stages of the process supporting the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry. In the past five years, HRNK has been invited numerous times to provide expert testimony before the U.S. Congress. In April 2018, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted HRNK UN consultative status.

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